

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claims 1-4 (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) A method for improving discoloration in pulp characterized in that a pulp containing a bleached mechanical pulp is irradiated with UV and/or visible light in the presence of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of reducing agents, peroxides and hydrogen-donating organic compounds.

6. (Previously presented) The method for improving discoloration in pulp of claim 5 characterized in that the pulp containing a bleached mechanical pulp is a mixture with one or more of bleached semi-chemical pulp, bleached chemical pulp and bleached deinked pulp.

7. (Previously presented) The method for improving discoloration in pulp of claim 5 characterized in that the UV and/or visible light is laser light.

8. (Previously presented) The method for improving discoloration in pulp of claim 6 characterized in that the UV and/or visible light is laser light.

9. (Currently amended) The method for improving discoloration in pulp of claim 5 characterized in that the at least one compound selected from the group consisting of reducing agents, peroxides and hydrogen-donating organic compounds is used in the range of 0.05 to 50% ~~solids~~ by weight on the basis of pulp solids.

10. (Currently amended) The method for improving discoloration in pulp of claim 6 characterized in that the at least one compound selected from the group consisting of reducing agents, peroxides and hydrogen-donating organic compounds is used in the range of 0.05 to 50% ~~solids~~ by weight on the basis of pulp solids.

11. (Currently amended) The method for improving discoloration in pulp of claim 7 characterized in that the at least one compound selected from the group consisting of reducing agents, peroxides and hydrogen-donating organic compounds is used in the range of 0.05 to 50% solids by weight on the basis of pulp solids.

12. (Previously presented) A pulp with improved discoloration obtained by the method for improving discoloration in pulp of claim 5.

13. (Previously presented) A pulp with improved discoloration obtained by the method for improving discoloration in pulp of claim 6.

14. (Previously presented) A pulp with improved discoloration obtained by the method for improving discoloration in pulp of claim 7.

15. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein said method provides the irradiated pulp with a permanent anti-fading effect.

16. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein said method provides the irradiated pulp with a permanent anti-fading effect.

17. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said method provides the irradiated pulp with a permanent anti-fading effect.

18. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein said at least one compound is a reducing agent.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said reducing agent is sodium borohydride or tetrabutylammonium borohydride.

20. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein said at least one compound is a reducing agent.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said reducing agent is sodium borohydride or tetrabutylammonium borohydride.

22. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein said at least one compound is a hydrogen donating organic compound.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein said hydrogen-donating organic compound is ethyl alcohol, benzyl alcohol, benzyl alcohol or furfuryl alcohol.

24. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein said at least one compound is a hydrogen-donating organic compound.

25. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein said hydrogen-donating organic compound is ethyl alcohol, benzyl alcohol, benzyl alcohol or furfuryl alcohol.